

IDEA-0409
Copy 5 of 5

1 AUG 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR : Chief, Security Branch, DPD-DD/P

SUBJECT : IDEALIST Missions from Laughlin AFB

REFERENCE : Memo For AC/DPD, Frm C/Secur/DPD,
Dtd 28 Jul 61, Same Subject, (IDEA-0403,
Attached)

1. I have received your second request for consideration of an alternate base for Laughlin AFB, and would like to call to your attention the reasons that I do not feel that all the recommendations cited are valid.

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2. Starting with paper:

a. Re paragraph 3. Operational flexibility from another base will not vary the pattern enough to make any appreciable difference. We are still committed to a small area for a very short period of time.

b. Re paragraph 4. The premise that by changing a base we would attract less attention is itself a contradiction in that any new activity will always cause widespread speculation, especially if it requires extensive support and relocation of base personnel to accommodate the new requirement (U-2 staging team). Not only do the new people attract attention but a new aircraft is bound to focus the entire base's attention to our activity.

Markings of aircraft will once again come under scrutiny. We have been operating with our markings for nearly a year from Laughlin with no specific repercussions. I am sure that this issue alone would cause great comment on any other USAF base than Laughlin.

~~SECRET~~

c. Several other items that have been mentioned such as paragraph 4.c., d., e., f., g., h., and i. procedures would not be changed by operating from another base.

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3. I appreciate the recommendations made by [] with reference to cover, however, the unit has been committed rather heavy operationally for the past year. To embark upon a program for the Air Weather Service for the sake of cover again brings up the question of acquainting a large number of people with our operations. This particular problem is not overwhelming, but the additional workload could create a morale problem with unit personnel who have been on TDY for specific intelligence gathering projects over seventy percent of the time in the past twelve months.

4. In summary, weighing the advantages gained in moving from Laughlin against the problems that are inherent in moving to a new base, I believe it is in the best interest of CIA to retain for the present our present operational pattern.

Stanley W. Beerli

STANLEY W. BEERLI
Colonel, USAF
Acting Chief, DPD-DD/P

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